**We had >37 attendees at the 9/25/23 North Hampton Neighbors Network (NNN) meeting. Alderman Joe Vollmer gave a brief update on Ward 5 projects. Donna Baringer highlighted the need for homeless services’ support by the state due to the large influx of parolees and other homeless people from rural areas. Latoya Wilson, an intern from the Conflict Resolution Center St. Louis, described the free services their organization offers to city residents. The next general meeting will be held on October 23th at Police Officers Association Hall. Please email the NNN admin at** **admin@northamptonneighbors.com** **with any questions.**

**9/25/23 Northampton Neighbors Network meeting:**

* Adam Jung opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda items:

Alderman Joe Vollmer

Donna Baringer

Gus Karagiannis

NIS

Elections

MSZ

* Joe Vollmer, Ward 5 alderman and Chair of Legislation and Rules Cmte (contact vollmerj@att.net; 314-609-5924):

-Recommended MSZ Auto Sales to request extension on CUP hearing and intends to defer to NNN recommendation.

- Progress on Tilles Park Capital Projects: Playground equipment has been ordered. Request for pickleball court resurfacing on request and is expected to begin Spring or Fall 2024.

- Craig Niethe (314-488-1041) Vollmer legislative assistant will post updates on results of alderman meetings about Ram’s Settlement money. There are still meetings on Oct 25th (6-9 pm) and Dec 2nd (11am – 2pm) soliciting public input through their citizen engagement hub https://stlouis.citizenlab.co/en/

-A bill on the plat and petition process to approve homeless shelters is being considered. Existing 4 family flats will qualify for conversion to homeless housing. It aims to replace the P&P process for neighbor input (within 500ft of site) with a single day meeting with notices posted in front of proposed site. The new proposal requires 8 votes (of 14) to pass. Neighborhood associations should submit letter/email to Vollmer with their statement of support/non-support.

-Q/A topics: city jail conditions, New Life Evangelist Center, speed humps, duration of Spire project in area, senior citizen property tax, responsible parties in tree-lawn area of properties (see video recording for details)

* Gus Karagiannis, community outreach officer/2nd district summarized recent crimes.

-Four reported incidents (Sept 18th-24th): 2 larcenies (stolen plates on Regal) and 2 stolen vehicles (Oleatha).

-He highlighted the incident in Lindenwood Park of exchange of gunfire between trespasser and resident walking at night. There were no injuries, but he suggests it’s better to call suspicious activity to the police. Be specific about details of the suspicious activity.

-QT and other gas station thefts from cars both locked and unlocked.

-He encouraged everyone to attend Chief Tracy town hall on Oct 23rd. One topic of interest is the request to have MO hwy patrol to perform traffic violation enforcement in city limits.

-He encourages residents to call with ongoing problems (non-emergency SLMPD 314 231-1212) His contact info: Ph.314-444-0161; email: GKARAGIANNIS@SLMPD.ORG. For weekly crime alerts, email request to him at gkaragiannis@slmpd.org.

* State Representative 82nd District Donna Baringer quick legislative update:

-She highlighted her role lobbying at local and state level to pass the ordinance changing residency requirement for city employees. Hires have increased since the Aug 28th passage.

-Elimination of Plat and Petition process for approving homeless shelter. She gave the background that 40% of homeless are not city residents. There are rural transplants who seek services only provided by the city. Police will bring released criminals to the city for services. Her position is that if the city is being asked to care for the state’s homeless then funding should come from the state to support the services. More data is required to document resident vs non-resident homeless—a homeless survey.

-Elections are in 2024 so there will be a lot of bad legislation proposed from republican offices intended to attract attention and compete in the primaries. Ballot summaries may also be vague or misleading and may contain incendiary language intended to influence voters.

-Proposal to remove the earnings tax in St. Louis city (accounts for 1/3 of budget). Kansas City is part of Jackson County, where earnings tax was suspended during covid.

-She briefly discussed the UAW strikers and their efforts to increase pay (none since 2019) and COLA in pensions.

* Karen Clifford, NIS Supervisor

- Our Neighborhood Improvement Specialist (NIS) is Samuel Kippen who serves The Hill, Southwest Garden, North Hampton, and Hamilton Heights (His contact info is (314) 657-1377, email: KippenS@stlouis-mo.gov)

-She advocates proactive versus reactive approach to serving the residents. They walk neighborhoods, post on websites and attend NA meetings.

-Karen reminded residents of National Night Out on Oct 3rd (1st Tues of Oct annually). Several neighborhoods/streets are hosting block parties and encouraged residents to attend a nearby party. If you want to host a party next year request a packet in July/Aug of 2024.

-The NIS serves as advocate for community betterment and has a broad range of duties and responsibilities (See full list of areas that the NIS can provide assistance to residents at https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/neighborhood-stabilization-office/nis-purpose-duties.cfm#:~:text=Purpose,police%20and%20City%20

Hosted speakers introduced by Tina Wong

* Latoya Wilson, Intern at Conflict Resolution Center – St. Louis (CRCSTL)

-Their organization offers free mediation services to citizens of St. Louis (paid by city taxes) to help disputing parties reach mutually beneficial resolutions.

-Examples of disputes their work: tenant-landlord, neighbor-neighbor, individual-business (not discrimination cases which fall into civil rights violation), referred conflict by 3rd party

-Services and referrals are confidential

-Do not deal with situations where there is potential for violence.

-CRCSTL was started by Wolf Smith and Reshad Staitieh, who are both attorneys, but the organization does not draw up legal paperwork. Once lawyers are involved and parties are not speaking the mediation services of CRCSTL no longer apply.

* Adam Jung

-Discussed the 2023 Naturescaping award to NNN and congratulated Elizabeth Dasenbrock for her efforts in planning the Tilles garden project site and submitting the application.

-Thanks to all who came out for the fall picnic on Saturday (Sept 23rd) and special thanks to Jane Rain for organizing the event. Also, thanks to DJ Rick and Bottom Shelf for the great entertainment and to representatives Buder library, St. Louis Forestry and St. Louis Recycles for attending with informational material and fun activities for the kids.

* Tina Wong

- Request volunteers for the Oct 7th planting event in support of the 2023 Naturescaping project. Event will start at 10:30 am

* Teresa Heilich

-There is a Transportation and Commerce meeting on short term rentals being held on 27th for anyone with special interest or wants to speak you can attend by zoom and submit question/comment.

-2 surveys on the NNN website: 1) Homeless shelter change to Plat and Petition process, 2) Arthur Ave. new multi-unit housing on site zones single family residential.

- Elections for NNN Executive Board are continuing. The election was announced in August with request for nominees (online and in person). Sept 25th is the last opportunity to nominate (in person or via online submission through the website: https://northamptonneighbors.com.

-Elections will be held by paper ballot during October general meeting (no online voting)

-She repeated duties of offices and named the current nominees:

 President –Adam Jung

 Vice-president –Jane Rain

 Secretary – Janice Huss

 Treasurer – Vacant

 At-large member nominees: Tina Wong, Grant Codak, Elizabeth Dasenbrock, Teresa, Heilich, Jake Heilich, Rob Meckfessel, Justin Thurman,

-See video recording for candidate statements

* Justin Thurman reviewed the CUP request by MSZ Auto Sales

-He reviewed the list of conditions that the board discussed, and that Adam Jung, Jan Huss and Justin Thurman drafted prior to the general meeting.

-All of the conditions being considered and other neighbor concerns regarding operation of online auto sales business at the 3720 Hampton site will be posted on the website.

-After online comments are collected, we will present a condensed list of conditions to be agreed to by MSZ Auto Sales.

-The business must be inspected by SLMPD every 2 years after granting of the CUP.

-Discussion of a container and trailer at site were discussed by a concerned resident but it was unclear whether those were items recently placed or recently noticed by residents.

-See video recording for full discussion of issues regarding MSZ Auto Sales CUP.

* Adam - adjourned meeting at 7:30 pm.

**To be added to the general meeting agenda, please submit a request though the NNN website: https://northamptonneighbors.com/**